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With the Chapters...

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The Oberlin College Forensic Union . . .

J. JEFFERY AUER (L)

Sponsor of the Oberlin College Chapter

Discussion and debate are the essential tools of a democracy. Since the earliest town meetings in New England, the American people have relied upon these tools to guide them to effective and intelligent action. Today we discuss our common problems, the nation's business, in service and civic clubs, farm and church groups, high schools, women's clubs, community forums, and similar organizations. The foundation for this discussion should be a bedrock of carefully integrated facts and honest opinions, freely expressed and critically considered.

One of the contributions we believe a college may take to this widespread public discussion is to furnish trained student speakers, capable of providing provocative and critical analyses of current public questions. Since 1927, Oberlin College, through the Forensic Union and the Department of Speech, has offered such a service. This service is available without charge to organizations within a reasonable distance of Oberlin; there is no tariff on public discussion. Organizations are requested to furnish transportation for the speakers or to reimburse them for their travelling expenses, but otherwise the service is a contribution of Oberlin College.

The Forensic Union programs for 1948-1949 center in six major public questions or topics. These topics are presented in discussions or debates by two, three, or four speakers, who welcome a forum period for comments or questions by members of the audience. The length of the programs may be arranged to fit the time schedule of the participating organization. The six public questions for 1948-1949, as named and described in a folder sent to a large number of organizations in northern Ohio, are:

1. "Do We Want Federal Aid for Education?"
(Ohio spends much more money per pupil for its schools than does Mississippi. Can local communities and states offer equality of educational opportunity? Should federal funds balance the account?)
2. "Should We Outlaw the Communist Party?"
(The authors of the Mundt-Nixon Bill claim that Communism is today's greatest threat to America? Is it true? What can we do about it? Is suppression the

American way to meet the problem?)

3. "Is the UN Out of Date?"
(“Yes!” say those who believe that only a federal world government can survive the atomic age. “No!” say those who still have faith that the United Nations can keep the peace.)
4. "How Can We Safeguard Our Civil Liberties?"
(What basic freedoms are threatened in America today: minority rights? Free speech and press? The right to vote? Religious tolerance? How can we make these freedoms everybody's business?)
5. "What's Holding Up the Peace?"
(“Cold war . . . get tough . . . appeasement. . .” What are the real problems that create crises in Berlin, China, Palestine, Korea, and the Balkans? Is America's foreign policy adequate to solve them?)
6. "Should We Revise the Taft-Hartley Law?"
(Candidates in '48 faced this question; now it belongs to the new Congress. What changes are being advocated? What will they accomplish for labor? For management? For the public?)

Since 1927, when the Oberlin College Forensic Union went into the business of providing public discussion programs for clubs and organizations, its members have visited communities in almost every section of northern Ohio and in three neighboring states. The following is the list: Amherst, Ashland, Attica, Avon Lake, Bellevue, Berlin Heights, Berlinville, Birmingham, Brighton, Brooklyn Heights, Brunswick, Castalia, Chardon, Chatham Village, Chicago (Illinois), Clark, Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Columbus, Conneautville (Pennsylvania), Crestline, Cuyahoga Falls, Doylestown, Elyria, Fairview, Florence, Fostoria, Galion, Gibsonburg, Greencastle (Indiana), Haskins, Henrietta, Homerville, Huron, Lake Forest (Illinois), Lakeside, Lakewood, LeRoy, Litchfield, Lorain, Loudonville, Mt. Gilead, Mansfield, Marblehead, Medina, Minerva, Monroeville, Napoleon, Niles, North Canton, North Ridgeville, Norwalk, Oberlin, Penfield, Pittsfield, Polk, Port Clinton, Ravenna, St. Charles (Illinois), Sandusky, Seville, Shreve, Spencer, Sullivan, Toledo, Valley City, Vermilion, Wadsworth, Wakeman, Wellington, Willard, York.

With the Chapters . . .

ALLEGHENY

Highlighting the first semester of forensic activities at Allegheny was a thousand-mile, five-day debate tour the first week in February. Nine debaters participated in eighteen contests at Dickinson College, Shippensburg State Teachers' College, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Temple University, Swarthmore College, LaSalle College, and St. Joseph's College in

Philadelphia. Although most of the debates were non-decision, Allegheny won five of the six decision debates. Members of the debate squad making the trip were Jean Isherwood, Patricia O'Connell, Robert Blomquist, Jeff Hopper, Mark Funk, Al Krall, Barbara Bounds, Evan Engstrom, and Austin Swanson.

Debating in the annual Mt. Mercy Tournament on February 19 were Jean Isherwood, Pat

O'Connell, Barbara Bounds, and Don Wargo. Allegheny is also planning to send debaters to the annual tournament at Washington and Jefferson College and to the Penn State Debaters' Convention.

Plans for the Second Annual Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Forensic Tournament at Allegheny on March 11-12 are complete. Twenty-four members of the Debating Association of Pennsylvania Colleges have entered 28 teams in debate, twenty contestants in oratory—seven in the women's division and 13 in the men's and 23 contestants in extemporaneous speaking—eight in the women's division and 15 in the men's.

The Allegheny chapter of Delta Sigma Rho initiated two members on January 21, Raymond McCall and Frank Fitch. The former, a varsity debater since his freshman year and twice president of Philo-Franklin Union, was winner of the Men's Extemporaneous Speaking Contest this year and will represent Allegheny in the state tournament. The latter, also a varsity debater since his freshman year, is one of the five Allegheny juniors chosen to participate in the Washington Semester plan of study at American University in Washington, D. C. He will return to Allegheny next fall for his senior year—and another year of debating. Varsity debater Louis Meyer, who graduated in January, is a member-elect. Participating in the initiation ceremony were Alleghenians Dr. Chester A. Darling (A), professor emeritus of biology and geology; Dr. John E. Cavelti (WES), professor of chemistry; and Dr. Paul B. Cares (AL), associate professor of history; and Miss Mildred Ann Ditty (IU), the chapter sponsor.

BATES

Bates is again carrying on the tradition of international debating which was begun many years ago. On March 22, two Bates men, William Stringfellow and Charles Radcliffe, upheld the affirmative of the Federal World Government proposition in a debate with Cambridge University, England. The debate was held at Lewiston. The first international debate of the year was held on January 19, when a Bates team faced the University of New Brunswick in a non-decision debate. Bates also met New Brunswick during the 1947-48 season. The Bates speakers, who upheld the affirmative of the Federal World Government question, were Rae Stillman and Max Bell.

Both the annual Sophomore and Freshman Prize Debates were conducted in two divisions this year. There were two debate topics up for discussion in each case, with the winning teams and the best individual speakers chosen by the faculty judges. Max Bell and William Dill were chosen the best sophomore speakers; and David Moore and Roderick Nicholson, the best freshman speakers.

During the first semester of the current season, 22 Bates debaters participated in 34 intercollegiate contests, the largest number of debate contests in any one semester in Bates' history. The contests included three intercollegiate forums, four high school debate clinics, two radio debates, one intercollegiate match, and six recorded debates. Bates debaters won nine

varsity decision debates, and won five and lost three junior varsity debates.

DEPAUW

Thirteen schools attended DePauw's Delta Sigma Rho Invitational Tournament on February 5. They were Ball State, Butler, Capital, Georgetown, Indiana State Teachers, Knox, Manchester, Taylor, Purdue, University of Illinois (Chicago), Wabash, Wayne, and DePauw. Five schools entered two four-man teams. The best record of 7-1 was made by Wayne Georgetown, Wabash, and DePauw. DePauw's second team made the only 6-2 record. Bob Zimmer, Carlton Hamm, and Bill Gildner served Coach Forrest Seal as chief assistants.

At the Bowling Green (Ohio) Tournament, January 7 and 8, Ray Payne and Bill Brown made a 4-1 record in the preliminaries, entered the quarter-finals, and were defeated there by the University of Illinois (Chicago). Howard Downs and Hugh Hawkins won three in the preliminaries.

On January 15, Coach Seal's squads emerged from two tournaments in second place. At Illinois Normal, Reg Arvidson, Ray Payne, Howard Downs and Hugh Hawkins won eleven out of twelve. Meanwhile, Henry Lewis, Jim Cobb, Roger Ragan, and Rex Ragan won second at Indiana University with a 6-2 record.

Sixteen debaters from Greencastle attended the Purdue Novice Tournament, February 12. They won twenty, dropped twelve, and had three of the tourney's five undefeated teams.

At Indiana State Teachers College, Terre Haute, DePauw used free substitution and entered sixteen debaters in the three rounds. They brought home a 6-6 record. Jim Cobb placed third in extempore speaking.

Next on the DePauw schedule is the Wabash-Earlham-DePauw meet. This annual affair is the oldest triangular meet in the Middle West. Ray Payne, Reg Arvidson, Howard Downs, and Hugh Hawkins will attend the University of Wisconsin Tournament, March 18 and 19.

Members chosen to attend the Delta Sigma Rho Congress are Carol Firchau, Roger Ragan, Howard Downs, and Hugh Hawkins. Dr. Herold Ross, chapter sponsor, will accompany them.

ILLINOIS

"The Illinois Chapter has six undergraduate, three graduate, and six Speech staff members active this year. Officers are: President, Dorothy Hawver, BA '49; Secretary, Vincent Thompson, Law '52; Treasurer, Arno Hill, Grad. The chapter has undertaken this year to trace all alumni members. A letter has been sent to the alums, with a request for information concerning their activities and achievements. As soon as this information is collected, we hope to be able to answer the question, "What happens to Illini Delta Sigma Rho Alums?" The chapter again sponsored a campus parliamentary institute, this year at the request of, and in conjunction with, the Student Senate.

"Directing the debate program this year are Halbert E. Gulley, King Broadrick, and Howard Shuman. Mr. Gulley is Supervisor of Forensics, having succeeded Richard Murphy to that position. Membership and program have been expanded, and Men's and Women's De-

bate has become the Illini Forensic Association. Seventy-five student members are active in the debate program, about a third of that number having already participated in intercollegiate meetings. The weekly radio forum on the University station, WILL, has now become a regular part of the program. Debaters attended conferences at Iowa, at Bradley University, and had a number of individual debates and forums on the campus.

"Featured in the second semester will be international debates with Toronto, Hawaii, and Cambridge Universities. Coming the second semester, also, will be the Western Conference meet in Chicago. Illinois plans to send a full delegation to the Delta Sigma Rho Congress in Chicago on March 31."

IOWA

Both at home and away, Iowa debaters and discussers are having their most active forensic season since the war.

On campus, in addition to the half-hour weekly radio University Student Roundtable on questions of the day, Iowans are also engaging in many intercollegiate activities. On February 10, four debaters, George McBurney, Murray Kniffen, Edward Diekmann and Charles Thodt, presented a demonstration debate before classes in argumentation at Grinnell College. On February 11, the debaters from William Jewell College engaged Iowans in two practice debates on the intercollegiate question; Iowa debaters were Henry Clark, Sherwin Markman, Gilbert Pearlman, and Charles Thodt.

On March 4-5, the University again sponsored an invitational Intercollegiate Conference on World Problems. Some sixteen universities and colleges participated during the two-day sessions in four rounds of debate, four periods of discussion followed by a student senate, extempore, public and after-dinner speaking.

The annual Hancher oratorical contest to determine Iowa's representative in the Northern Oratorical League will be held in early April. President Hancher will award a cash prize to the winner, who will be chosen through a series of preliminaries and a final contest, at which the President will preside.

Away from home, Iowans are participating in two invitational forensic meets. On February 25-26, four students participated in debating, discussion, extempore speaking, and oratory at the annual Nebraska tournament at Lincoln. On March 18-19, another group is participating in similar activities at the University of Wisconsin tournament at Madison.

Iowa's spring forensic season on the intercollegiate level closes with the two main events of the year. On March 25-26, four men and four women will participate in the annual Western Conference League men's and women's debate tournaments held simultaneously on the University of Chicago campus. One week later, four students will return to Chicago for the National Delta Sigma Rho Student Congress.

MARQUETTE

Marquette's debate program for the current season includes participation in five major tournaments, attendance at the biennial Student Congress, about a dozen exhibition debates, and

playing host to a dozen visiting teams in practice debates on the campus.

Marquette's season was officially opened with attendance at the Iowa Intercollegiate Conference in World Problems at Iowa City. After Christmas, activity began with the participation of two teams in Northwestern's "Grand Western Tournament." On March 3 Marquette entered two teams in the Northwest Tournament at St. Paul, and on March 18 four teams were entered in the Delta Sigma Rho Tournament at the University of Wisconsin.

Four delegates and four alternates will be sent to the Delta Sigma Rho Student Congress on March 31.

On March 12 the Marquette Chapter sponsored and conducted the Archdiocesan Senior Debate Tournament for Catholic High Schools in the Wisconsin-Illinois area. Sixteen high schools participated in the tournament which ended in the crowning of a regional debate champion.

Members of the Chapter, under the direction of Dr. Hellman, the chapter sponsor, working as the Varsity Debate Researchers, are again at work preparing a background book for high school debaters on next year's high school debate question. This book will be off the press in September, and will again be made available to high schools all over the country at cost as a service of the Marquette Chapter.

NORTHWESTERN

Since the last copy was prepared for this column, the varsity men's debate squad has competed successfully in three large tournaments and has furnished programs for community audiences. Early in January, four men won 13 of their 15 debates at Bowling Green State University and received the gold trophy symbolizing first place in the Great Lakes Area Tournament. A few weeks later, 10 men won 14 of their 18 debates at DeKalb to place first in the experienced division of the Golden Anniversary Tournament sponsored by Northern Illinois State Teachers College.

On February 12, Northwestern entertained the Grand Western Tournament. Two-hundred fourteen debaters from 41 colleges in nine states engaged in a total of 260 debates. The University of Florida received the trophy for winning nine out of 10 debates. Purdue was awarded second-place medals for eight wins. Northwestern varsity men, who conducted the tournament, won nine out of 10; but they declared themselves ineligible for the trophy when the tournament began.

The women's squad, which includes several freshmen, has been represented in three tournaments in 1949. Four women won ten out of 12 debates to rank among the best in the experienced division of the tournament at Illinois Normal University. Another foursome placed third by winning six of their eight debates in the tournament sponsored by Eastern Illinois State College. Ten women won 5 of ten debates in the Grand Western tournament on the Northwestern campus.

The junior varsity men tied for first place with 6 wins in 8 debates in the freshman-sophomore tournament at Purdue University. On the same day, other "jayvees" won 6 of their

ten contests in the Grand Western.

Future events include the St. Thomas, Wisconsin, Western Conference, and Grand National tournaments, and the Delta Sigma Rho Congress.

Sander Vanocur, who is a junior, a varsity debater, and a Hardy Scholar, won the annual prize of \$100 in the John B. Kirk Oratorical Contest, held in February. He will represent Northwestern in the Northern Oratorical League contest, to be held at Western Reserve University in May.

OBERLIN

The chief innovation in Oberlin's forensic program this season has been the Debate Clinic on World Government, attended by nearly 300 high school students from northern Ohio, and sponsored by the Department of Speech and the Forensic Union. The clinic opened on Nov. 23 with a symposium, "What are the Prospects for World Government?" with Col. M. Thomas Tchou, director of the World Citizenship Movement; Dr. Vernon Nash, vice-president of United World Federalists; and Dr. John B. Mason, visiting professor of political science, as speakers. An analysis of the high school debate topic (Federal World Government) was presented in a second symposium by William H. Vobach, James A. French, and William R. Catton, Jr., all members of the Forensic Union. Following a period of informal discussion, and a display of published materials relating to the debate subject, the clinic concluded with a debate on the desirability of Federal World Government. The visiting British Universities Debate Team, Messrs. Reginald Galer and Anthony Cox, upheld the affirmative; opposed to the motion were Robert M. Kingdon, president of Forensic Union, and Richard B. Anliot, president of Delta Sigma Rho.

High point in first semester intercollegiate debate was the first place won in the state women's debate tournament by an affirmative team of Eve Gorsuch and Nancy Sutton, undefeated in six contests, and a negative team of Nancy McCombs and Nancy Lewis, winning half of their six debates. In mid-January, Oberlin again played host to the annual Legislative Assembly of the Northeast Ohio Debate Conference. Delegates from fifteen schools considered the question of Civil Rights in a day of committee discussion and parliamentary debate.

The usual "circuit-riding" activities of Forensic Union members began early in the fall with a series of discussions of "Presidential Platforms of 1948," continued to the last minute with a program before the Elyria Rotary Club at noon on election day. Twenty-two discussion programs were provided during the first semester for clubs and forums in northern Ohio, and present indications are for even greater activity during the second semester.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania chapter is continuing its year's activity by making plans to send at least one representative to the Delta Sigma Rho Congress and also to hold the annual spring meeting of the undergraduate and alumni members. Some progress is being made in increasing the chapter membership, and it appears that a group

of six students will be eligible at the spring election.

An extensive debate schedule with several out-of-town trips has been maintained, this work being primarily under the auspices of the University Debate Council. The chapter members continue to be the most active leaders and debaters in the University Debate Council.

WHITMAN

The Whitman debate team entered the Linfield meet at McMinnville, Oregon on February 24, 25, and 26. Those participating were: Craig Esary, Gordon Jaynes, Carlan Heathcote, Bonnie Marolf, Carmen Gleiser, Joy Mott, Mary Jo Reed, Dona Gerstenberger, La Rene Bushnell, Edith Loss, Shirley Brown, Patty Jo Johnson, Herb Dykstra, Ernie Miller, Clayton Michaelis, John Pennington, Jack Doty, and Dave Allard. Those divisions which they entered were debate, oratory, interpretive reading, and after dinner, extemporaneous, experimental, and impromptu speaking.

A second important event is the meeting of the Pacific Forensic League, which will be held on the Whitman campus from April 12-15.

WISCONSIN

"As is its custom, the Wisconsin chapter of Delta Sigma Rho will sponsor the annual Delta Sigma Rho Forensic Tournament in Madison on March 18 and 19. Thus far over 25 schools have entered the tourney. The events that will be held are debate, discussion, oratory, and radio newscasting. The Wisconsin chapter sponsors the tournament with the aid of the Speech faculty and the Wisconsin Forensics Union, and it promises to be a very worthwhile tournament.

"Thus far this year, the debate squad of the University has entered tournaments at Northwestern and Eau Claire in addition to match debates with Toronto, Canada, Xavier, Northwestern, Mundelein, Loyola, Wheaton, and Marquette. The remainder of the calendar for the year will include the Western Conference Tournament at Chicago, the Delta Sigma Rho Congress in Chicago, and our own Delta Sigma Rho tournament."

YALE

"Our varsity squad has participated in home-and-home debates with Harvard, Wesleyan, Wellesley, and Amherst, winning seven of the eight contests involved. Our Freshman squad has split two home-and-home debates with the Taft School and the Choate School.

"In addition, the varsity entered the Boston University Invitational Tournament this February to defend the Austin Freeley trophy, won by us a year ago. George Washington University defeated us in the semi-finals and then went on to win in the finals against Notre Dame.

"During March, we shall meet Brown and Columbia in home-and-home debates and a team from Cambridge University, England.

"The Triangular Freshman and Varsity debates with Princeton and Harvard will probably take place in May."